

So the superintendent didn't hide her tears Tuesday when she officially declared her retirement to her staff at the district's annual employee convocation. It surprised many but not everyone gathered at Memorial Hall. Shackelford has always maintained that she would step down after five years. It was something she made clear from day one.

"There are times in your life where you know it's somebody else's turn," she said.

In 2005, Shackelford replaced Ray Daniels, who was highly regarded for his leadership.

"In one sense, you'd say all she had to do was follow up on the path that Ray Daniels had set. There's some truth to that," said Bill Reardon, the district's lobbyist and a former state lawmaker. But he pointed out that "the more you achieve, the remaining improvements become really difficult."

However, she had a proven track record with curriculum reform for at-risk children.

Shackelford came to the district 13 years ago to work directly with curriculum. She was among the early leaders who helped implement First Things First. Thirteen years ago, the district was 11 percent proficient in reading and 3 percent proficient in math. Students are now 61 percent proficient in reading and 63 percent proficient in math, district officials said.

"There's no other district in the state that's gone from single digits to 60 (percent)," she said, praising the district's more than 19,500 students.

Shackelford credits the success to students, teachers, custodians, bus drivers and others.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. BOYD. Madam Chair, I rise to express my concern with H.R. 3221, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2009. This legislation was crafted in the Committee on Education and Labor after President Obama's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget proposed reforming the federal student loan system. Although I support the President's goal of ensuring our affordable and accessible educational opportunities for our nation's children, I have some serious reservations with this bill.

H.R. 3221 calls for the transition of all federal student lending to the Direct Loan Program by July 1st 2010. Not only will this move end the reliable administration and servicing of student loans at more than 4,000 schools across the country, this transition will risk job losses at a time when unemployment is threatening to hit 10 percent nationwide. This industry represents over 30,000 jobs throughout our country, and 700 Sallie Mae employees in my district alone.

These employees have a history with the program, the college administrators and the students that they serve, given the over 40 years of the program's existence. During that time the private industry has continued to evolve to better help students with their financial responsibilities through quality customer

service and product innovation. It is evident that as the Direct Loan and Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) programs have competed over the years the quality of the student experience has been changed for the better. I am not comfortable taking this dynamic out of the equation via the provisions in H.R. 3221. Furthermore, I am concerned that the quick transition required by this bill could prove burdensome to many of the schools that are currently using the FFEL program despite the efforts of the Department of Education to prepare for it.

I believe that the country and students would be better served if the private industry framework of the current system was enhanced instead of proceeding with H.R. 3221 as written and I would therefore urge my colleagues to vote no.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL BALLOU HOFER, JR.

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to an individual whose dedication and contributions to the community of Ontario, California were exceptional. Today I ask that the House of Representatives honor and remember an incredible man and American patriot, Paul Ballou Hofer, Jr. Paul was a dear friend of mine and I was deeply saddened by his passing on July 8, 2009.

Paul was born to Paul Ballou Hofer and Frances Morgan Hofer on January 23, 1921 at the family ranch in Ontario, California. He attended Mountain View Elementary School, Chaffey High School and the University of Southern California. A natural athlete, at Chaffey he played varsity basketball for four years and was a halfback on the football team, receiving dual scholarships to USC for both sports.

During World War II Paul served in the U.S. Navy, commissioned as a Naval Aviator, with several thousand hours of flight time. In 1944 Paul married his high school sweetheart, Laura Jean Belcher, who preceded him in death. They had three sons, Paul III, John and Brett who grew up in the same house in which their father was born. Along with his brothers Morgan, also deceased, and Phillip, Paul was a fourth generation vineyard farmer at Hofer Ranch which was founded by his family in 1882. Paul always believed that the lessons learned from lifetimes of farming, hard work and determination, coupled with the deeply held and abiding belief that land is what endures, have been the anchor that has guided the family through seven generations on the ranch.

In addition to ranching, Paul was a man of many interests. He had a great love of the outdoors, with a passion for fly fishing and wing shooting. Paul was a member of the Masons, and also of the Republican Party. He collected antique farm and winery equipment, proudly adding to the collection at Hofer Ranch. In addition to his three sons, Paul is survived by his brother, Phillip, and his family; his grandchildren, Jason Hofer (Christina), Jacklyn Hofer Winton (Jeremy), Morgan Hofer

and Laura Hofer; his great-granddaughter, Elizabeth; and other family members.

Paul's passion for his ranch, his family, and his community has contributed immensely to the betterment of Ontario, California. I was proud to call Paul a fellow community member, American and good friend. I hope his family knows that their father, brother, and grandfather, and the goodness he brought to this world, will always be remembered.

TRIBUTE TO MARY L. NIRMAIER

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary L. Nirmaier and Rose Ross, two members of the only 300 remaining survivors of the Women's Airforce Service Pilots. I am proud to see these two remarkable women honored with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Women Airforce Service Pilots were the first women in history to fly America's military aircraft. Between the years 1942–1944, women were recruited to fly non-combat missions, so that male pilots could be deployed in combat. Through their actions, Women Airforce Service Pilots were a catalyst for revolutionary reform in the integration of women pilots into the U.S. Armed Services.

The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest and most distinguished award that the U.S. Congress can award to a civilian. Just as the Navajo Code Talkers and Tuskegee Airmen served with distinction and were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, it is also appropriate for Congress to recognize and honor the service of the WASP with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Our soldiers, sailors, and pilots sacrifice everything they have in service to America and will serve as a permanent reminder of the bravery, loyal patriotism, and love of country.

In closing, Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing Ms. Nirmaier and Ms. Ross our sincerest thanks and appreciation for their commitment, dedication, and service to our nation. It is an honor to represent them in the United States Congress.

TRIBUTE TO GARY, LISA, JACKSON AND JESSICA WALTERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT FOR KINSHIP PARTNERS

HON. MICHELE BACHMANN

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the most passionate families I have ever met, Gary and Lisa Walters and their children, Jackson (age 15) and Jessica (age 14). They are passionate about making a difference in their community. To raise awareness and funds for Kinship Partners, a mentoring program that relies only on donations, the Walters Family traveled from Brainerd, Minnesota to our capital, Washington, DC. But unlike most Americans who travel to Washington, D.C. for a cause, they

chose an unusual mode of transportation. Gary and Jackson both rollerbladed across the country, while Jessica biked along side them.

From August 13th to September 7th, Gary and Jackson woke up and strapped on their trusty rollerblades, Jessica hopped on her bike and together, they embarked on this heartwarming adventure. They were sore; they were tired; but they were not discouraged by challenges. For the past 7 years, in fact, Gary has put himself through some rigorous challenges to raise awareness for Kinship Partners, including walking the length of Minnesota, biking to New Orleans and camping out on the Brainerd, Minnesota water tower for more than a week. It is his unwavering dedication to Kinship Partners that has helped raise over 100,000 dollars and kept the program strong.

Kinship is a mentoring program in north-central Minnesota that matches children with caring adults based on mutual interests. For a few hours a week, they get together and spend time doing whatever it is they like. It's not a complicated formula, but it is a somewhat new take on mentoring programs. And Kinship Partners is seeing success stories in 24 Minnesota communities as a result of their back-to-basics strategy. In fact, there is even a waiting list. When children know that there is someone who is absolutely crazy about them and committed to their well-being, there are no limits to their success.

STUDENT AID AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 16, 2009

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3221) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965, and for other purposes:

Mr. KIND. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 3221, The Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.

With the struggling economy, rising cost of tuition, and decrease in the availability of student aid, working families are finding it increasingly difficult to send their children to college. In order to ensure that America is able to compete in the global economy and remain a leader in the innovative industries of the future, this historic legislation invests in our economic future by making college more affordable and accessible. By reforming our student loan system, simplifying the student loan application process, investing in community colleges to create a highly skilled workforce, and strengthening early childhood education programs we will guarantee that the next generation is equipped with the necessary skills to compete worldwide.

In a fiscally responsible way, the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act will make college more affordable and accessible by transforming our student aid system. The reforms will make student loans more reliable and accessible for a greater number of students. Pell Grant Scholarships will receive an additional \$40 billion over the next 10 years, \$500 million of that will go to students in Wis-

consin. In 2019, it is estimated that 20,000 western Wisconsin students will be awarded \$75 million in Pell Grants. The bill also simplifies the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form by allowing families to fill out the application with information from just a tax return to prove eligibility.

This legislation also invests heavily in community colleges to cultivate a highly skilled workforce to compete in the global economy. It will encourage and support relationships between community colleges, businesses, states and adult education programs. These partnerships are already occurring in western Wisconsin and with additional grants and investment, our community colleges will be able to strengthen and build upon these partnerships, creating additional jobs and economic development.

Not only will the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act do a better job getting kids to college, it will also provide assistance to ensure that they make it to graduation. Investing in college access and completion support programs will ensure that students receive guidance to ensure they make it to graduation. Further, secondary schools in western Wisconsin will receive \$57 million for school renovation to improve the classroom experience and enhance learning for students.

Ensuring that children are put on a path toward academic success begins at an early age. I have always believed that we must place an emphasis on early childhood education in order to prepare students to excel once they begin in school. I have long supported and advocated for legislation that would strengthen early childhood education by providing states with grant opportunities, increased funding, and better training for educators. In previous years, I have introduced legislation that would have accomplished many of the same goals of this bill by creating an Early Learning Challenge Fund to award competitive grants to states that implement early education reforms. This provision is crucial as we work to provide learning and development opportunities to children at an early age, ensuring that kids are ready for success once they enter the school system.

As the country continues to work through some of the most difficult economic conditions in a generation, it is imperative that we increase our investment in education. Innovation and a highly skilled workforce are keys to unlocking the future potential of America. If we are truly going to compete against emerging nations like China and India, we must continue to invest in our education system.

I am proud to represent western Wisconsin, which is home to six universities and dozens of community and technical colleges. With such an emphasis on higher education, we have long been working to become a leader in producing workers for the 21st Century's global economy. This historic legislation will build on the infrastructure already available in western Wisconsin and make higher education more affordable and accessible for everyone.

IN MEMORY OF DR. M. DELMAR
EDWARDS

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who I am proud to have called a friend, a constituent, and an inspiration: Dr. M. Delmar Edwards of Columbus, Georgia. Dr. Edwards was the first African-American to practice surgery in the city of Columbus and was one who blazed new trails for those who would follow him. On September 11, 2009, he passed away at the age of 83.

Dr. Edwards was born on December 19, 1926, in the state of Arkansas. He attended Morehouse College and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio, in 1948. He received a master's degree from Atlanta University in 1952 and, in 1957, became the fifth black person to graduate from the University of Arkansas Medical School.

In 1964 he moved to Columbus and started his practice on the corner of Fourth Avenue, now Veterans Parkway, and Eighth Street. He eventually led the general surgery section at the Medical Center and served as chairman of the department of surgery. Later, he trained to be a surgeon at the Residency Training Program in General Surgery at the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Hospital.

In the early 1980s, Dr. Edwards was a founding trustee of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta, where a scholarship program was eventually named in his honor and has helped dozens of bright, young, aspiring physicians to achieve their goals of becoming a doctor.

In addition to his esteemed medical career, Dr. Edwards found the time to become a mentor to scores of African-American physicians in Columbus and was a driving force behind their decisions to stay and practice within the community. He was also a devoted community leader, becoming the first African-American to serve on the Columbus Housing Authority Board and the second on the Muscogee County School Board.

Madam Speaker, Dr. M. Delmar Edwards served the people of Columbus with honor, respect, and integrity. His lifetime of altruistic care-giving has made him a legend in our community and an inspirational figure for us all. I consider it a privilege to honor his life today and his dedication and lifelong commitment to the welfare of others. He will be missed.

COMMEMORATING SEPTEMBER 11,
2001

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 17, 2009

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, today on the eighth anniversary of September 11, 2001, we honor the memory of the victims, extend our thoughts and prayers to the victims' families, and recognize the heroism and courage displayed during rescue and recovery